

Palestinian state is giving the Palestinians exactly what they want—statehood without peace. By handing them a state on a silver platter, you are rewarding unilateral actions and taking away any incentive for the Palestinians to negotiate or compromise or renounce violence. You are sending the message that the Palestinian Authority can sit in a government with terrorists and incite violence against Israel without paying any price.

The first E.U. member to officially recognize a Palestinian state was Sweden. One has to wonder why the Swedish Government was so anxious to take this step. When it comes to other conflicts in our region, the Swedish Government calls for direct negotiations between the parties—but for the Palestinians, surprise, surprise, they roll out the red carpet.

State Secretary Söder may think she is here to celebrate her government's so-called historic recognition, when in reality it's nothing more than a historic mistake.

The Swedish Government may host the Nobel Prize ceremony, but there is nothing noble about their cynical political campaign to appease the Arabs in order to get a seat on the Security Council. Nations on the Security Council should have sense, sensitivity, and sensibility. Well, the Swedish Government has shown no sense, no sensitivity and no sensibility. Just nonsense.

Israel learned the hard way that listening to the international community can bring about devastating consequences. In 2005, we unilaterally dismantled every settlement and removed every citizen from the Gaza Strip. Did this bring us any closer to peace? Not at all. It paved the way for Iran to send its terrorist proxies to establish a terror stronghold on our doorstep.

I can assure you that we won't make the same mistake again. When it comes to our security, we cannot and will not rely on others—Israel must be able to defend itself by itself.

Mr. President,

The State of Israel is the land of our forefathers—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. It is the land where Moses led the Jewish people, where David built his palace, where Solomon built the Jewish Temple, and where Isaiah saw a vision of eternal peace.

For thousands of years, Jews have lived continuously in the land of Israel. We endured through the rise and fall of the Assyrian, Babylonian, Greek and Roman Empires. And we endured through thousands of years of persecution, expulsions and crusades. The bond between the Jewish people and the Jewish land is unbreakable.

Nothing can change one simple truth—Israel is our home and Jerusalem is our eternal capital.

At the same time, we recognize that Jerusalem has special meaning for other faiths. Under Israeli sovereignty, all people—and I will repeat that, all people—regardless of religion and nationality can visit the city's holy sites. And we intend to keep it this way. The only ones trying to change the status quo on the Temple Mount are Palestinian leaders. President Abbas is telling his people that Jews are contaminating the Temple Mount. He has called for days of rage and urged Palestinians to prevent Jews from visiting the Temple Mount using (quote) “all means” necessary. These words are as irresponsible as they are unacceptable.

You don't have to be Catholic to visit the Vatican, you don't have to be Jewish to visit the Western Wall, but some Palestinians would like to see the day when only Muslims can visit the Temple Mount.

You, the international community, are lending a hand to extremists and fanatics. You, who preach tolerance and religious free-

dom, should be ashamed. Israel will never let this happen. We will make sure that the holy places remain open to all people of all faiths for all time.

Mr. President,

No one wants peace more than Israel. No one needs to explain the importance of peace to parents who have sent their child to defend our homeland. No one knows the stakes of success or failure better than we Israelis do. The people of Israel have shed too many tears and buried too many sons and daughters.

We are ready for peace, but we are not naïve. Israel's security is paramount. Only a strong and secure Israel can achieve a comprehensive peace.

The past month should make it clear to anyone that Israel has immediate and pressing security needs. In recent weeks, Palestinian terrorists have shot and stabbed our citizens and twice driven their cars into crowds of pedestrians. Just a few days ago, terrorists armed with axes and a gun savagely attacked Jewish worshipers during morning prayers. We have reached the point when Israelis can't even find sanctuary from terrorism in the sanctuary of a synagogue.

These attacks didn't emerge out of a vacuum. They are the results of years of indoctrination and incitement. A Jewish proverb teaches: “The instruments of both death and life are in the power of the tongue.”

As a Jew and as an Israeli, I know with utter certainty that when our enemies say they want to attack us, they mean it.

Hamas's genocidal charter calls for the destruction of Israel and the murder of Jews worldwide. For years, Hamas and other terrorist groups have sent suicide bombers into our cities, launched rockets into our towns, and sent terrorists to kidnap and murder our citizens.

And what about the Palestinian Authority? It is leading a systemic campaign of incitement. In schools, children are being taught that ‘Palestine’ will stretch from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea. In mosques, religious leaders are spreading vicious libels accusing Jews of destroying Muslim holy sites. In sports stadiums, teams are named after terrorists. And in newspapers, cartoons urge Palestinians to commit terror attacks against Israelis.

Children in most of the world grow up watching cartoons of Mickey Mouse singing and dancing. Palestinian children also grow up watching Mickey Mouse, but on Palestinians national television, a twisted figure dressed as Mickey Mouse dances in an explosive belt and chants “Death to America and death to the Jews.”

I challenge you to stand up here today and do something constructive for a change. Publically denounce the violence, denounce the incitement, and denounce the culture of hate.

Most people believe that at its core, the conflict is a battle between Jews and Arabs or Israelis and Palestinians. They are wrong. The battle that we are witnessing is a battle between those who sanctify life and those who celebrate death.

Following the savage attack in a Jerusalem synagogue, celebrations erupted in Palestinian towns and villages. People were dancing in the street and distributing candy. Young men posed with axes, loudspeakers at mosques called out congratulations, and the terrorists were hailed as “martyrs” and “heroes.”

This isn't the first time that we saw the Palestinians celebrate the murder of innocent civilians. We saw them rejoice after every terrorist attack on Israeli civilians and they even took to the streets to celebrate the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center right here in New York City.

Imagine the type of state this society would produce. Does the Middle East really need another terror-ocracy? Some members of the international community are aiding and abetting its creation.

Mr. President,

As we came into the United Nations, we passed the flags of all 193 member States. If you take the time to count, you will discover that there are 15 flags with a crescent and 25 flags with a cross. And then there is one flag with a Jewish Star of David. Amidst all the nations of the world there is one state—just one small nation state for the Jewish people. And for some people, that is one too many.

As I stand before you today I am reminded of all the years when Jewish people paid for the world's ignorance and indifference in blood. Those days are no more.

We will never apologize for being a free and independent people in our sovereign state. And we will never apologize for defending ourselves.

To the nations that continue to allow prejudice to prevail over truth, I say “J'accuse.”

I accuse you of hypocrisy. I accuse you of duplicity.

I accuse you of lending legitimacy to those who seek to destroy our State.

I accuse you of speaking about Israel's right of self-defense in theory, but denying it in practice.

And I accuse you of demanding concessions from Israel, but asking nothing of the Palestinians.

In the face of these offenses, the verdict is clear. You are not for peace and you are not for the Palestinian people. You are simply against Israel.

Members of the international community have a choice to make.

You can recognize Israel as the nation-state of the Jewish people, or permit the Palestinian leadership to deny our history without consequence.

You can publically proclaim that the so-called ‘claim of return’ is a non-starter, or you can allow this claim to remain the major obstacle to any peace agreement.

You can work to end Palestinian incitement, or stand by as hatred and extremism take root for generations to come.

You can prematurely recognize a Palestinian state, or you can encourage the Palestinian Authority to break its pact with Hamas and return to direct negotiations.

The choice is yours. You can continue to steer the Palestinians off course or pave the way to real and lasting peace.

Thank you, Mr. President.”

TRIBUTE TO THE KENTUCKY COMMUNITIES ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL (KCEOC) COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Kentucky Communities Economic Opportunity Council (KCEOC)—Community Action Partnership in celebration of the agency's 50th anniversary of service to the people of southeastern Kentucky.

As one of the first 23 agencies established in 1964 to address poverty, KCEOC has raised the bar high, going above and beyond the call of duty to provide greater opportunities for those in need. Thanks to a group of local citizens who applied for a competitive grant

opportunity five decades ago, this organization has flourished into the multi-million dollar service agency that it is today.

KCEOC has inspired people across our region to put compassion for our neighbors into action. Through its programs and innovative responses to dire needs in our impoverished communities, more families today have access to child development programs, food resources, affordable housing, and assistance with financial needs than ever before. This agency has also been a critical partner for economic development, from recruiting jobs to providing the infrastructure for new businesses. The employees of KCEOC serve as great ambassadors for eastern Kentucky, proving that we have a strong, dedicated workforce and an intricate support community that believes in helping one another succeed.

Through the vision of leaders like Paul Dole, this agency has turned community losses into gains. One of the greatest examples of those efforts was the transformation of the old asbestos-plagued Corbin Hospital into clean, state-of-the-art housing for senior citizens.

Winston Churchill once said that a pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty. That's what KCEOC works to convey every single day by providing a hand-up, rather than a hand out. They provide hope in an otherwise dark hour for many families and I can't thank this agency enough for its efforts day-in and day-out, letting our neighbors know that someone cares.

KCEOC has forged important partnerships with local schools, employers and other community organizations to capitalize on the resources that are abundant in our communities. Together, we have made great strides in southeastern Kentucky, but we certainly wouldn't be where we are today without the foundation that KCEOC has carefully crafted for thousands of families in our region.

In celebration of this 50th anniversary, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the work of the KCEOC Community Action Partnership in southeastern Kentucky.

7TH ANNUAL LAKESHORE CLASSIC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize the Gary Chamber of Commerce as the organization celebrates the 7th annual Lakeshore Classic basketball tournament. In honor of this occasion, the Gary Chamber of Commerce hosted a celebratory event in Gary, Indiana, which included a corporate luncheon held at the Majestic Star Casino on Tuesday, November 25, and a basketball tournament at West Side High School on Friday and Saturday, November 28 and 29.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of sports and impressive team players. The theme for this year's Lakeshore Classic is the "Cavalcade of Champions," saluting all of the region's state basketball champions from 1940 to 2014. These exceptional players and coaches have made a mark in the region's notable sporting history and are to be highly

commended. Along with these outstanding basketball teams, the Gary Chamber chose a prominent featured speaker for their corporate luncheon, Mr. Ulysses "Junior" Bridgeman, a former National Basketball Association star and one of the most successful businessmen in the United States. Alongside his extraordinary success, Mr. Bridgeman has also proven to be a great model in transitioning from professional sports to the business industry.

I would like to take this time to honor the region's state basketball champions from 1940 to 2014. These teams have set the standard for sports excellence in our region while creating an inspiring example for the community of Northwest Indiana. The girls basketball teams include East Chicago Roosevelt (1977), East Chicago Roosevelt (1979), Crown Point High School (1984), Crown Point High School (1985), and Lake Central High School (1994). The boys basketball teams include Hammond Technical High School (1940), East Chicago Washington High School (1960), Michigan City Elston High School (1966), Gary Roosevelt High School (1968), East Chicago Roosevelt High School (1970), East Chicago Washington High School (1971), Gary Roosevelt High School (1991), Gary West Side High School (2002), East Chicago Central High School (2007), Thea Bowman Academy (2010), Wheeler High School (2010), and Thea Bowman Academy (2013).

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the Gary Chamber of Commerce, the organizers and sponsors of the 7th annual Lakeshore Classic, and the prestigious state champion teams that have been honored. Their noteworthy commitment, leadership, and contributions have inspired generations to come.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER CARSWELL

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to honor Christopher Carswell, an inspirational young man who has faced numerous medical struggles with grace and poise and has used his experiences as motivation to start his own non-profit organization, 1Boy4Change, when he was only 13 years old. Today, he is 16 and has a story that we all could learn a lesson from.

Throughout his decade and a half of life, Chris has suffered a tonsil adenoid surgery that resulted in the need for a feeding tube, multiple hand reconstructive surgeries, as well as a connective tissue disorder that put him in a wheelchair for a time. Then, he started having seizures that put him into respiratory/cardiac arrest as well as a stroke which robbed him of the right half of his field of vision. But through this long list of challenges, Chris has remained an upbeat person and has dedicated himself to the service of others.

In 2010, Chris was matched up with Bronx, a service dog who became his constant companion, ensuring he would never face what life threw at him alone. Shortly after that, he started 1Boy4Change, with the mission of raising awareness and providing support for individ-

uals and families with disabilities. In the early days of the organization, Chris helped match up 70 service dogs to veterans and children.

Since then, he has expanded his mission to support others who have also chosen to live a life of service: our soldiers and police officers. In that capacity, Chris has started programs meant to help out K9 units by providing them comprehensive first aid kits as well as car heat alarms that can save the lives of dogs that are left in patrol cars.

Chris is to undergo brain surgery in January, and his doctors are hopeful that the procedure will stop his seizures. I hope all of my colleagues in the House will join with me as we wish Chris a successful operation and a speedy recovery so he can come back and continue the good work he's doing.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF MARTIN LITTON

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the extraordinary life and work of Martin Litton, a legendary and passionate environmentalist and wilderness preservationist who died on November 30, 2014, at his home in Portola Valley, California. Mr. Litton was born in Los Angeles on February 13, 1917, and was 97 years of age when he died of age-related causes.

Martin Litton was introduced early to the joys of the wilderness. He attributed a 12-day trip on Mt. Whitney that he and a friend took as teens as the inspiration for his lifelong crusade to protect our environment. At age 18 he wrote a letter to the Los Angeles Times urging Californians to save Mono Lake. Martin Litton was best known for his fierce opposition to the destruction of the Colorado River by the construction of dams, often in association with the Sierra Club. He was one of the first several hundred people to float the river in 1955, and after fourteen years as the travel editor at Sunset Magazine he began running the river often, founding Grand Canyon Dories in 1970 and running commercial trips through the 1970s and 1980s, until he sold the business in 1988. He ran his last trip in 2004 at age 87, rowing his own wooden dory.

Martin Litton was an author, activist, pilot, and a catalyst for change. He was close to major figures in the environmental movement, such as David Brower, Edward Abbey and others. Martin Litton gave generously of his time and considerable talents to the conservation movement as a Director of the Sierra Club from 1964 to 1973, as a member of the Executive Committee of the American Land Conservancy, as an Advisor to the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance and on the Honorary Board of Directors of the Glen Canyon Institute.

Martin Litton leaves his wife, Esther, his children John, Kathleen and Helen, as well as five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in extending our most sincere condolences to Martin Litton's family, and in honoring his extraordinarily productive life. Martin Litton was a soaring figure, larger